

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A binder comprising:

a first cover defining a plane, wherein said first cover has a first side located on one side of said plane and a second side located on an opposite side of said plane;

a second cover pivotally coupled to said first cover, both of said covers being generally flat and planar and having a first and second opposite sides thereof; ~~and~~

a pocket coupled to said first cover, wherein said pocket can be accessed from both said first and second sides of said first cover and wherein said pocket can be accessed from said first side without intersecting said plane, and wherein said pocket can be accessed from said second side without intersecting said plane, said pocket including a front panel and a rear panel and having a mouth; and

a releasable fastening mechanism positioned on or between said front panel and said first cover to releasably join said front panel and said first cover, said releasable fastening mechanism extending generally along said mouth and two sides of said pocket to control access to said pocket.

2. (Original) The binder of claim 1 wherein said pocket includes an pocket cavity which can be accessed from both said first and second sides of said first cover.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The binder of claim 2 wherein said pocket is movable to a multi-access position wherein said pocket cavity can be simultaneously accessed from both said first and second sides of said first cover.

5. (Original) The binder of claim 2 wherein said pocket is movable between a first position wherein generally all of said pocket cavity is located on said first side of said first cover and a second position wherein generally no part of said pocket cavity is located on said first side of said first cover.

6. (Original) The binder of claim 2 wherein said pocket is movable between a first position wherein at least part of said pocket cavity is located on said first side of said first cover and a second position wherein at least part of said pocket cavity is located on said second side of said first cover.

7. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 2 wherein said first and second covers are pivotal about a hinge line, and wherein said pocket cavity includes a mouth oriented generally parallel to said hinge line.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A binder comprising:~~  
~~a first cover;~~  
~~a second cover pivotally coupled to said first cover, both of said covers being generally flat and planar and having a first and second opposite sides thereof; and~~  
~~a pocket coupled to said first cover, wherein said pocket can be accessed from both said first and second sides of said first cover~~ The binder of claim 1 wherein said first and second covers are pivotal about a hinge line and wherein said pocket is pivotable about said hinge line.

9. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 8 wherein said pocket is releasably attachable to said first cover such that when said pocket is releasably attached to said first cover said pocket generally does not pivot about said hinge line relative to said first cover.

10. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1 wherein said ~~pocket includes a front and a rear panels~~ are generally parallel panels generally facing each other, and wherein said pocket further includes a pair of side panels extending between said front and rear panels such that a pocket cavity is defined between said front and rear panels and said pair of side panels.

11. (Original) The binder of claim 10 wherein each side panel is made of an expandable material.

12. (Original) The binder of claim 11 wherein said expandable material is gusseted material.

13. (Original) The binder of claim 1 wherein said first cover includes an opening, and wherein said pocket is generally received in said opening.

14. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 13 wherein ~~said pocket includes a said~~ front and rear panels are generally parallel panels generally facing each other, and wherein at least one of said front or rear panels is larger than said opening to prevent said one of said panels and said pocket from entirely passing through said opening.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The binder of claim 1 wherein said binder is movable between a closed position, wherein said first and second covers face each other and are generally parallel, and an open position wherein said first and second covers are not generally parallel.

17. (Original) The binder of claim 16 wherein said first and second covers are releasably attachable together to retain said binder in said closed position.

18. (Original) The binder of claim 1 further comprising a spine located between said first and second covers, and wherein said first and second covers are pivotally coupled to said spine.

19. (Original) The binder of claim 1 further comprising a binding mechanism located on an inner surface of one of said first or second covers.

20. (Original) The binder of claim 19 wherein said binding mechanism is a three-ring binding mechanism.

21. (Original) The binder of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second covers and said pocket are generally rectangular in top view.

22. (Currently Amended) A binder comprising:

a first cover;

a second cover pivotally coupled to said first cover, both of said covers being generally flat and planar, said first cover including an opening and having a first side and a second side; and

a pocket coupled to said first cover and generally received in said opening, said pocket including a first panel and a second panel defining a pocket cavity therebetween, ~~said first panel being releasably attachable to said first side of said first cover and said second panel being releasably attachable to said second side of said first cover;~~

a first releasable fastening mechanism positioned on or between said first panel and said first cover to releasably join said first panel and said first cover; and

a second releasable fastening mechanism positioned on or between said second panel and said first cover to releasably join said second panel and said first cover.

23. (Original) The binder of claim 22 wherein said pocket can be accessed from both said first and second sides of said first cover.

24. (Original) The binder of claim 23 wherein said pocket includes a pocket cavity which can be accessed from both said first and second sides of said first cover.

25. (Original) The binder of claim 24 wherein said first cover defines a plane, and wherein said first side is located on one side of said plane and said second side is located on an opposite side of said plane, and wherein said pocket cavity can be accessed from said first side without intersecting said plane, and wherein said pocket cavity can be accessed from said second side without intersecting said plane.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for manipulating a binder comprising the steps of:

providing a binder having a first generally planar component, a second generally planar component pivotally coupled to said first planar component, both of said planar components being generally flat and planar and having a first and second opposite sides thereof, and a pocket coupled to said first planar component, said pocket including a front panel and a rear panel defining a pocket cavity therebetween, wherein each panel is independently pivotable relative to the other;

accessing said pocket from said first side of said first planar component; and  
accessing said pocket from said second side of said first planar component,  
wherein said first planar component defines a plane, and wherein said first side of said first planar component is located on one side of said plane and said second side of said first planar component is located on an opposite side of said plane, and wherein said first accessing step includes accessing said pocket from said first side without intersecting said plane, and wherein said second accessing step includes accessing said pocket from said second side without intersecting said plane.

27. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1 wherein said ~~pocket includes an outer pocket front panel and an inner pocket rear panel~~ defining define a pocket cavity therebetween, wherein first cover includes an opening and said pocket is positioned in said opening, and wherein said first side of said first cover is an inner side of said cover and said second side of said first cover is an outer side of said cover, and wherein said ~~inner pocket rear panel~~ is generally positioned on said inner side of said first cover, and said ~~outer pocket front panel~~ is generally positioned on said outer side of said first cover, and wherein said ~~inner pocket rear panel~~ includes a protruding portion that protrudes outwardly beyond said opening to prevent said ~~inner pocket rear panel~~ from being pulled through said opening.

28. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1 wherein said ~~pocket includes a front panel and a rear panel defining a pocket cavity therebetween, wherein each panel is~~ independently pivotally coupled to said first cover.

29. (Currently Amended) The binder of claim 1 wherein ~~said pocket includes a front panel and a rear panel defining a pocket cavity therebetween, and wherein said front and rear panels are separate and distinct from said first cover.~~

30. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 8 wherein said pocket includes an inner portion positioned immediately adjacent to said hinge line.

31. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 22 wherein said first and second panels are each independently pivotally coupled to said first cover.

32. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 22 wherein said first panel is directly releasably attachable to said first side of said first cover and said second panel is directly releasably attachable to said second side of said first cover.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein ~~said pocket includes an outer pocket panel and an inner pocket panel defining a pocket cavity therebetween, wherein first planar component includes an opening and said pocket is positioned in said opening, and wherein said first side of said first cover is an inner side and said second side of said first cover is an outer side, and wherein said inner pocket rear panel is generally positioned on said inner surface of said first planar component, and said outer pocket front panel is positioned on said outer side of said first planar component, and wherein said inner pocket rear panel includes a protruding portion that protrudes outwardly beyond said opening to prevent said inner pocket rear panel from being pulled through said opening.~~

34. (Previously Presented) A binder comprising:  
a generally planar cover;  
a component pivotally coupled to said cover, said component having an opening formed therein; and  
a pocket positioned within said opening of said component, said pocket including an outer pocket panel and inner pocket panel defining a pocket cavity therebetween, wherein said

inner pocket panel is positioned on an inner side of said component, and said outer pocket panel is positioned on an opposite outer side of said component, and wherein said inner pocket panel includes a protruding portion that protrudes outwardly beyond said opening to prevent said inner pocket panel from being pulled through said opening.

35. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 34 wherein said inner pocket panel is larger than said opening around generally the entire perimeter thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 34 wherein said outer pocket panel has generally the same outer dimensions as said component.

37. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 34 further comprising a binding mechanism positioned on an inner surface of said binder.

38. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 34 wherein said component is generally flat and planar.

39. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 34 wherein said component defines a plane and has a first side and a second side, and wherein said first side of said component is located on one side of said plane and said second side of said component is located on an opposite side of said plane and wherein said pocket can be accessed from said first side without intersecting said plane, and wherein said pocket cavity can be accessed from said second side without intersecting said plane.

40. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 34 wherein said inner pocket panel is positioned between said cover and said component.

41. (Previously Presented) The binder of claim 34 wherein said component is directly releasably attachable to said cover.

42. (New) The binder of claim 1 wherein part of said releasable fastener is positioned on said front panel and part of said releasable fastener is positioned on said first cover.

43. (New) The binder of claim 1 wherein said releasable fastener extends generally along three sides of said first cover.

44. (New) The binder of claim 1 further comprising a supplemental releasable fastening mechanism positioned on or between said rear panel and said first cover to releasably join said rear panel and said first cover.

45. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the binder of said providing step is independently pivotable relative to the other such that one panel can be pivoted without the other panel pivoting.